

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02360 261119Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INT-05 L-03
NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 IO-13 /163 W

-----124476 261514Z /64

R 261007Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7443

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2360

NAIROBI ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR BERGUS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PDEV SU ENRG

SUBJ: KHARTOUM CELEBRATES MAY REVOLUTION

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAS LED CELEBRATION NINTH ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS GAINING POWER. IN MAJOR SPEECH HE SPOKE WITH SATISFACTION
OVER SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO REACH ACCOMODATION WITH DOMESTIC
OPPOSITION. HE CALLED FOR MAJOR EFFORT TO OVERCOME CURRENT
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, BUT ON BALANCE HIS TONE SUGGESTED OPTIMISM.
THOUGH HE DID NOT MAKE EXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT OIL DISCOVERED,
HE DID INDICATE THAT EXPLORATION SO FAR IS PROMISING. NIMEIRI HAD
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 02360 261119Z

LITTLE TO SAY REGARDING FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN GENERAL, HE HAS LED
CITIZENRY IN FORGETTING PROBLEMS FOR A FEW DAYS AND ENJOYING
HOLIDAY EVEN TO EXTENT OF PARTICIPATING IN SPORTS FESTIVAL IN
TWO EVENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. SUDAN IS TAKING A COUPLE OF DAYS OFF TO CELEBRATE THE NINTH AN-
NIVERSARY OF "MAY REVOLUTION" WHICH BROUGHT NIMEIRI TO POWER.

NIMEIRI HIMSELF HAS BEEN LEADING CELEBRATIONS WITH MAJOR SPEECH, AND VISITS TO SEVERAL NEW INSTALLATIONS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER. MORE-OVER, HE SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING HIMSELF. AT END OF LONG PARADE HE AND ABUL GASSEM STOOD ATOP PRESIDENTIAL LIMOUSINE AS IT DROVE INTO CROWDS WHO CHEERED EXUBERANTLY. THURSDAY EVENING AT SPORTS FESTIVAL NIMEIRI DISPLAYED HIS HORSEMANSHIP AND LATER PLAYED IN EXHIBITION SOCCER MATCH, IN WHICH HE GAINED ONE ASSIST. CROWD AT STADIUM WARMLY CHEERED THEIR LEADER WHO SUDDENLY SEEMED SO HUMAN.

2. NIMEIRI'S SPEECH TO JOINT NATIONAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION IN FRIENDSHIP HALL WAS RELATIVELY TAME. HE HAD NOTHING NEW TO SAY ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, REITERATING STANDARD AFRO-ARAB THEMES. NOR DID HE CRITICIZE SOVIETS, CUBANS OR ANYONE ELSE, AS HE SO OFTEN HAS IN PAST TWO YEARS.

3. SPEECH WAS DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY ECONOMIC SITUATION. AFTER REVIEWING WITH SATISFACTION SUCCESSFUL RECONCILIATION AND NOTING THAT THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO RPT NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SUDAN, NIMEIRI DISCUSSED ECONOMIC SITUATION AT LENGTH. HE CALLED FOR GREATER EFFORTS, MORE PRODUCTIVITY AND CONTINUING SACRIFICE. HOWEVER, HE ALSO CALLED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION SCHEME BEGINNING JULY 1 (THAT IS AT START NEW FISCAL YEAR) AND HE DIRECTED PRIVATE SECTOR TO FOLLOW SUIT. TOGETHER WITH THIS STEP HE INDICATED MINIMUM WAGE WOULD BE INCREASED AT SAME TIME.

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PAGE 03 KHARTO 02360 261119Z

4. IN WHAT MANY LISTENERS EXPECTED TO BE CLIMAX OF SPEECH NIMEIRI BRIEFED NATION ON STATUS CHEVRON'S EXPLORATION EFFORT. PRAISING US COMPANY FOR JOB IT DOING, NIMEIRI SOUNDED LIKE ITS EXECUTIVES IN CAREFULLY EXPRESSING JUST WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR AND DESCRIBING WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE. NIMEIRI DID NOT RPT NOT GO BEYOND WHAT CHEVRON REPS HAVE TOLD US AND SAID THAT RESULTS OF SECOND WELL WERE "ENCOURAGING". HE SAID ADDITIONAL TESTS WOULD BE DONE AND TWO MORE WELLS WOULD BE DRILLED THIS YEAR. NIMEIRI WAS HOPEFUL THAT INITIAL INDICATIONS THAT OIL EXISTS WOULD BE CONFIRMED BY ADDITIONAL TESTS AND EXPLORATION.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NIMEIRI STATED THAT SUDAN FACES DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, HE DID NOT RPT NOT DWELL ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS. SOMEONE NOT FAMILIAR WITH BACKGROUND AND STATUS SUDANGOV-IMF NEGOTIATIONS---THAT IS, SUDANESE PUBLIC --- WOULD KNOW LITTLE MORE AS RESULT SPEECH. ON OTHER HAND, HE DID NOT RPT NOT OVERSTATE RESULTS OIL EXPLORATION AS MANY HAD EXPECTED. IN FACT, WHEN HE BEGAN TO TALK ABOUT OIL, AUDIENCE WAS STRAINING FOR MOMENT TO BURST INTO APPLAUSE. THERE EVEN WERE SOME FALSE ALARMS. MOMENT NEVER CAME AND THEREFORE SPEECH WAS SOMEWHAT ANTI-CLIMACTIC TO MOST SUDANESE. NIMEIRI'S PARTICIPATION AT PARADE AND SPORTS FESTIVAL SEEMED TO BE VARY POPULAR. IN EFFECT, HE AND OTHER SUDANESE HAVE

DECIDED TO ENJOY THEMSELVES FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS AND WORRY
ABOUT SHORTAGES OF MONEY AND JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE, ARAB
SOLIDARITY, HORN ETC NEXT WEEK.
BOGOSIAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2554066
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHARTOUM CELEBRATES MAY REVOLUTION SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAS LED CELEBRATION NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS GAINING POWER. IN MAJOR SPEECH HE SPOKE W IT
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, ENRG, SU, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)
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